GRADE 8 – ARTS lesson plan: “Arkansas Travelor”

**ART – S. Wasilewski Band – K. Cowart**

**Dance – C. Casterline Orchestra – M. Stiles**

**History:**

“Arkansas Travelor” was composed by Colonel Sandford C. Faulkner in the 1800’s

**Below you will see the story behind the song…**

“The story:  A lost traveler in Arkansas backwoods in the rain, with darkness falling and needing food for himself and his horse and shelter for the night came upon a crude cabin with an elderly gentleman sitting outside with his hound dog and playing a tune over and over on his fiddle.  The Traveler asked the Squatter for shelter to which the Squatter replied while continuing to play the tune on his fiddle, "Ain't got no room and the house leaks.  Me and the old woman sleep in the only dry spot in the house."  So then the Traveler asked for food to which the Squatter replied while playing the tune over and over, "Ain't got no extra food, got me 12 youngin's."  Then the Traveler asked why he didn't fix the roof if it leaked.  The Squatter told him that it was raining so he couldn't fix the roof (all the while repeating the tune).  The Traveler said "Why don't you fix the roof when it isn't raining?" To which, the Squatter replied "Cause it don't leak when it ain't raining."  Frustrated with the old man, the Traveler asked the Squatter why he was playing the tune over and over to which the Squatter replied, "Only heard it yesterday, fraid I'll forget it."  The Traveler then asked why he didn't play the second part of it.  "I ain't got no second part" the Squatter replied.  The Traveler told the Squatter that he knew the second part of the tune.  The Squatter jumped up and began to dance, the sleeping hound awoke and the children joined the dancing and the old woman smiled at the door.  "Come in stranger, sit down, and join us for supper," the Squatter excitedly announced.  He shared his food, and his whiskey, fed the stranger's horse and invited the stranger to sleep in the dry spot that night.!” – Kay Tatum

http://www.arkansasties.com/People/ArkansawTraveler.htm

**Students: Grade 8 Orchestra and Band** **Classes**

Students will learn the history behind the piece “Arkansas Travelor” which is a Traditional Folk Song. These musicians will also be able to play “Arkansas Travelor” as the dancers perform.

**Students: Grade 8 Drawing and Painting Designs**

The art students will learn about the time period in which this piece was created. The artists will create a Folk Art Backdrop which will be represented through a quilt. The artists will be able to visualize and decipher symbolism to patterns within the quilt.

**Students: Grade 8 – Dance II**

Dancers will read and watch material that describes and introduces the time period in which “Arkansas Travelor” was created. The dancers will then break into groups to create choreography based on the history and images created by the art class. We will then put the choreography together to create one masterpiece.

The final product will be the band/orchestra playing while the dancers perform their choreography and there will be an image that the artist created on the cyc behind the dancers.